

May 5, 2011

## Family Disaster Plans

### Did YOU Know



#### Cinco de Mayo

celebrates the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the French-Mexican War. The soldiers defeated the French invasion of a well-armed, professional army of about 8,000 soldiers led by Napoleon III. The battle lasted four hours and ended in a victory for the small, poorly armed force of about 4,500 soldiers under Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza. Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico's independence day, as some commonly believe. In the United States, Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.

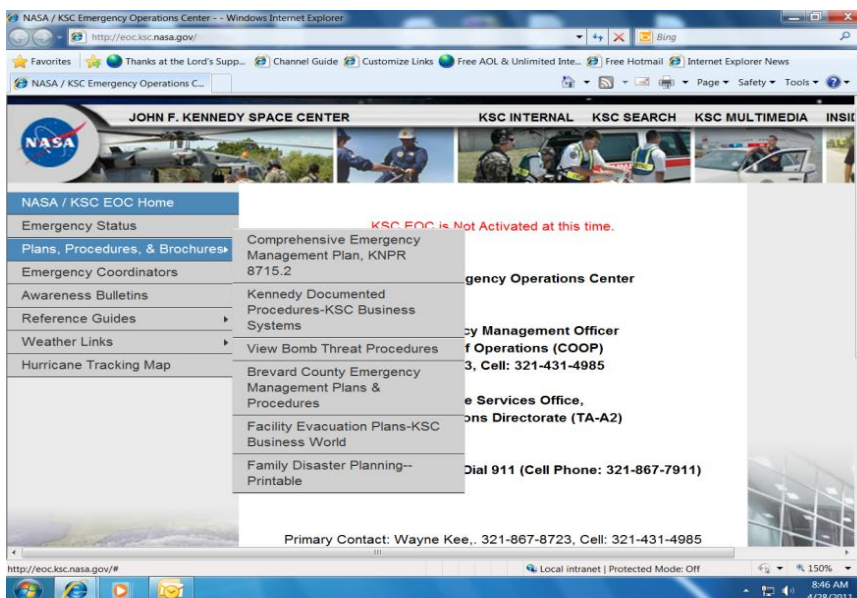
The recent tornadoes that plowed across the southern states resulted in at least **306** deaths and billions of dollars in damage. More than **160** tornadoes were reported to have touched down during the week. Many families were caught off guard. Disaster studies show that many families often are left not knowing what steps to take. Do not get caught off guard! It is important to stay abreast of all local-area weather advisories and to have a plan for each type of disaster, especially living in Florida. Answer the following:

- **Does your community have a public warning system?** If so, what do the local warning signals sound like and what should you do when you hear them?
- **What about animal care after a disaster?** Pets (other than service animals) generally are not permitted in places where food is served because of health reasons. Therefore, make plans for pet care should you have to evacuate to a public shelter.
- **What are some special needs to plan for when caring for the elderly or disabled?**
- **What are the disaster or emergency plans at your workplace, your child's school or day care center, and other places where family members spend time?**

Be prepared for anything that may come your way; learn the steps necessary to minimize the danger of being caught in a natural disaster. Talk to family members, friends, neighbors, and coworkers about potential disasters and how to best prepare and respond. Make checklists to avoid missing steps. Better yet, create a Family Disaster Plan. The KSC Emergency Operations Center provides downloadable, ready-to-go Family Disaster Plans that easily can be easily to fit your family's needs. Family Disaster Plans are available at the Emergency Operations Center Home Page.

From the KSC Home Page click on **Emergency Operations Center** under **Quick Links** then click on **Plans, Procedures, and Brochures** link, next click on **Family Disaster Planning-Printable** link.

For more information on Family Disaster Plans, contact **Wayne Kee** at [wayne.m.kee@nasa.gov](mailto:wayne.m.kee@nasa.gov)



If you have questions, comments, or a topic you would like to see addressed:

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